

Now we know where two Standard Oil perforators are

Earl Ratzer (husband of perfiner Helen) is editor of the *Illinois Precancel News* and a faithful reader of *The Perfin Bulletin*. He noted our article in the May issue about John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil and offers some further information.

Here's what he had to say.

Charles H. Regnier, a former member of the Perfins Club and the Illinois Precancel Stamp Club, became the perfins mentor of Helen Ratzer and left much of his perfins material to her when he died in 1991.

Among the things Helen received were two Cummins model 52 perfin devices. Each weighs about 25 pounds and each was a five-die perforator.

One was for perfin S195-15B, an A-rated pattern known on 1908 issues. The U.S. catalog doesn't list a usage location, but since it is very similar to S195-15 and -15A, it's likely it saw service—or was intended to see service—in Kansas City, MO, or Wichita, KS.

The other is for perfin S195-16, a D+ rated pattern known on 1938 issues and used in St. Louis, MO.

Earl doesn't explain—and probably doesn't know—how Charlie Regnier wound up with the two perforators, but it's

likely he rescued them from the scrap heap somewhere.

That accounts for two of the 82 known Standard Oil perforators. The others, Earl suggests, may well have wound up in the scrap heap and may have been melted down during World War II to be turned into something more useful—like grenades and bullets.